


Huntington Beach State Park



Visitor's Guide



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To ensure you enjoy your State Park experience be aware of the natural environment. There are some areas that may be potentially hazardous to all visitors. Visitors should exercise caution when visiting this park. If you are unsure about possible hazards, check with a Park Ranger.

Huntington Beach offers a variety of activities for the one-half million visitors that come annually to this coastal paradise. The park, famous for its abundance of wildlife, gives the visitor a unique experience, one that they will remember for a lifetime. A large American alligator population and more than 300 bird species call Huntington home. The park staff is dedicated to quality customer service and the preservation and stewardship of this natural coastal environment. Through these efforts, Huntington Beach received two very prestigious awards in 1999 – the *Southern Living* Magazine Readers Choice Award and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Stewardship Award. Huntington Beach also works for the protection of rare and endangered animals and plants by performing such services as monitoring the nesting areas of the loggerhead sea turtle, creating a nesting area for the least tern and re-establishing a rare coastal plant – the sea beach amaranth.

The Visitor Information Center provides details on the variety of attractions and activities at Huntington Beach, including the three miles of beach, nature trails and gift shop, and multiple opportunities for picnicking, fishing, swimming and camping. The park also offers Coastal Exploration, a continuing series of educational programs that interpret the natural and historical resources of the park.

The mission of Huntington Beach is to provide quality outdoor recreation and educational opportunities that focus on coastal environments and diverse ecosystems, as well as the cultural history of the park and its environs. The park will be managed in a manner consistent with sustaining the integrity of the cultural and natural resources of the park.

Huntington Beach State Park is open year round.

Huntington Beach State Park

Three miles south of Murrells Inlet on U.S. 17
16148 Ocean Highway
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576
(843) 237-4440

INTRODUCTION

Huntington Beach State Park is located on lands which traditionally have been associated with the plantation properties that today compose Brookgreen Gardens. The State of South Carolina signed a fifty-year lease agreement in 1960 with Brookgreen Gardens for 2,500 acres of ocean front property on which to create a state park. The park, named in honor of Archer Milton and Anna Hyatt Huntington who founded Brookgreen Gardens, contains 2,500 acres which feature maritime forests, salt marshes and pristine beaches. Its ocean frontage, separated from the mainland by a salt marsh, is part of a three-mile strip of beach known over the years as Allston Island, Theaville and Magnolia Island. The beach served many generations of planters as a resort site to escape their malaria-ridden inland homes. William Hasell Wilson, writing in his *Reminiscences*, stated:

“The several tracts of land extended from the river to the Atlantic Ocean, the width of the strip of land ranging from two and half to four miles. Most of these tracts had a house for summer residence at the seashore, some of them directly on the beach, and others on the main land, which was to a considerable extent separated from the beach by inlets, which were very shallow and almost dry at low tide; across these inlets causeways were constructed at intervals, giving access to the beach...”



Atalaya 1933



Atalaya
circa 1970



Map of Georgetown district circa 1825. Arrow indicates present location of Huntington Beach State Park. Note: Murrells Inlet then known as Murray's Inlet. Source: Robert Mills *Atlas of the State of South Carolina* (1825).

It was partly their search for a healthier environment for Mrs. Huntington that lured the Huntingtons to coastal South Carolina and their eventual purchase of Brookgreen in 1930.

The area the Huntingtons saw, which was known as Waccamaw Neck, was an isolated, rural and economically backward region of South Carolina. It had not always been so. In the years before and after the American Revolution, the growing of rice had made the Neck the site of the most successful agricultural enterprise of its time. It was rice, decades before cotton became "king," which placed South Carolina in the economic forefront among her sister colonies. Huge fortunes were made by the planters, who displayed their wealth in comfortable and stylish homes complete with the most fashionable furnishings and the trappings of culture. Children studied at the best schools and universities, many in England. Summer homes were maintained in cooler climes such as Newport, Rhode Island, and later the mountains of North Carolina.

The region also wielded early political power, supplying military leaders as well as men influential in government. That George Washington spent the night at Brookgreen on his Southern tour of 1791, demonstrates the importance of the region.

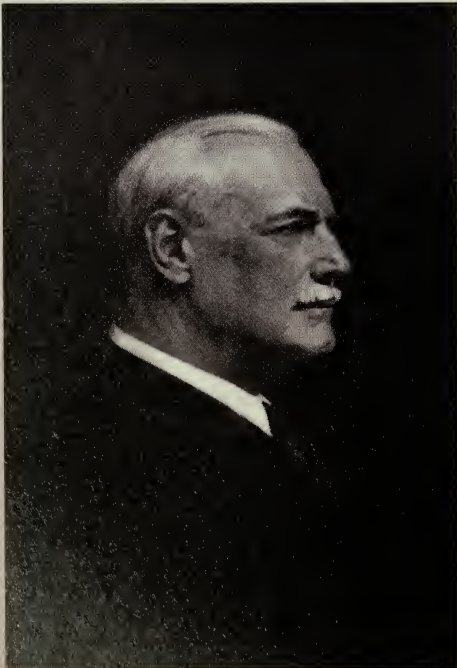
Life on the Neck exacted its price, however. For those who did not vacate their homes between March and October malaria was a mysterious killer which usually made no distinction between slave and master. Many planters who wished to keep their families closer at hand while they managed their lands maintained houses on the ocean dunes, where the disease was less likely to strike. One such settlement, called Theaville, existed during the early nineteenth century near where Atalaya stands today.

Even this precaution was fraught with danger, as the late summer was also the hurricane season. It is difficult to imagine the terror inspired by these storms which approached with no warning in the days before modern communication and weather forecasting. Entire families were lost with their homes. The tragic loss of Dr. J. J. Ward Flagg's family is described in an interview with Mrs. Zaidee Poe Brawley and reprinted on page 37.

Rice production continued to expand until the Civil War brought an end to slavery, which was the cornerstone of that system. Of all the agricultural enterprises of man, few require the huge investment of labor required by rice cultivation. Swamps were cleared of their heavy growth and dikes were built to hold water in these fields. A complicated system of canals and flood gates was then constructed in order to regulate precisely the water levels at specific times in the growing cycle of the plants.

Without the regimented system of labor provided by slavery it was difficult to maintain and operate the vast and complex system. Rice cultivation continued on a diminished scale after the Civil War, but no economic enterprise was to be forthcoming to replace rice. The Neck was to become an area dominated by fishing and small subsistence farms.

The new generation after the Civil War found a new utilization of the land on the Neck. Like many other areas along the South Carolina coast, the Waccamaw Neck attracted migrating waterfowl in huge numbers. The mild winter climate combined with hunting opportunities attracted the attention of individuals and sporting clubs from the more affluent Northern states. They found that waterfowl habitat could be improved by restoration of the old rice fields to retain fresh water. It was from such a hunting club that Mr. Huntington made his purchase.



Archer Milton Huntington

THE HUNTINGTONS

Anna Vaughn Hyatt

was born

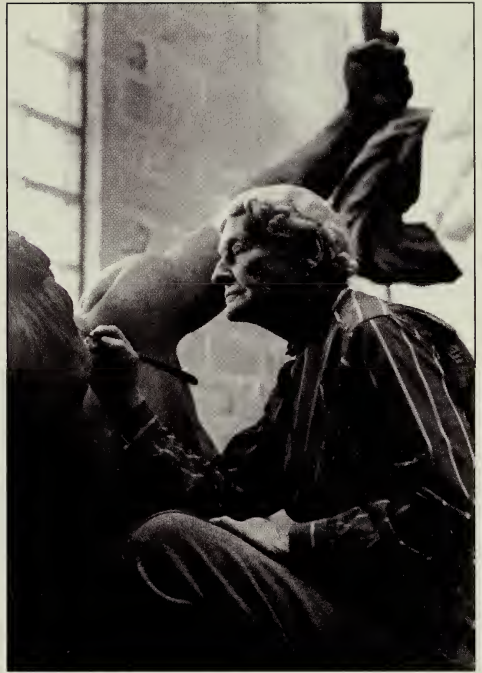
March 10, 1876, the third child of Alpheus Hyatt, II, and Audella Hyatt of Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Her father was an academician whose lifework was in the fields of zoology and paleontology. It was in this environment of learning that young Anna Hyatt's interest in wildlife and sculpture was

nurtured. In an effort to support his daughter's interest, Mr. Hyatt built a studio for Anna and her older sister, Harriet, who was also an aspiring sculptor.

Around the turn of the century Anna was primarily self-taught and liked best to observe and study live animals. Her first one-woman show was at the Boston Art Club in 1901, where she displayed some fifty pieces of her work. She became well known as an animalier as well as for her heroic pieces. In 1915 she completed her sculpture of Joan of Arc which would launch her into the international limelight. While working on a medal for the Hispanic Society of America, Anna met the society's founder Archer Milton Huntington.

Born on March 10, 1870, in New York City, Archer Milton Huntington was the only son of transportation magnate Collis P. Huntington and his second wife, Arabella Yarrington Huntington. At a very early age Archer developed an interest in the arts, history and literature which was encouraged by his mother with frequent trips to museums and art galleries wherever they traveled. Having become enamored with Spanish culture during his early travels, Archer Huntington chose to forego a formal education and devoted his time to



Anna Hyatt Huntington

studying the language, arts, history, and literature of Spain. Between 1897 and 1903, he completed a scholarly translation of the epic poem *El Cid*, which is still highly regarded today. Rather than enter the business world like his father, the younger Huntington chose to become an art historian, Hispanic scholar and philanthropist, founding more than a dozen museums.

It was their common love of the arts which first brought Anna Hyatt and Archer Huntington together. During the early 1920s, they worked together on exhibitions for the National Sculpture Society. It was much to the surprise of their friends that they were married on March 10, 1923, the date of both their birthdays. Mrs. Huntington was forty-seven with Mr. Huntington six years her senior.

In 1927 Mrs. Huntington unveiled her *El Cid*, a very powerful sculpture in bronze that was to receive critical acclaim. Later that year, while at the family retreat at Arbutus Camp in upstate New York, Mrs. Huntington developed a severe chest cold. Later examination revealed she had a tubercular affliction that was the result of her cold and her generally weakened condition. This initiated a seven-year search for a better climate that would aid the restitution of Mrs. Huntington's health.

EARLY DAYS AT BROOKGREEN

Sailing down the Intercoastal Waterway in January of 1930, the Huntingtons stopped to investigate some coastal property in upper Georgetown County described in a real estate brochure that had been given to them before their departure. The brochure emphasized that the acreage was a hunting and fishing preserve that featured an ancient garden, a farmhouse near the



The original Brookgreen Plantation house before it burned in 1901.



The second Brookgreen Plantation house rebuilt by the Hasell family after the original burned in 1901.

Waccamaw River and a house on the beach. The Huntingtons did not take long to come to a decision concerning the property, for on January 24, 1930, Mr. Huntington purchased for \$225,000 the 6,635 acres that composed the four plantations of the tract from the FMC Corporation Hunt Club. The initial acquisition was later increased to around 9,127 acres, rounding out Brookgreen Gardens present boundaries. In 1931 Brookgreen was incorporated as an eleemosynary institution under the laws of South Carolina as "a Society for Southeastern Flora and Fauna." In addition to serving as a preserve for animals and plants, the Huntingtons had also envisioned the gardens as a backdrop for the work of Mrs. Huntington and other American sculptors.

The Huntingtons were obviously taken with the beauty of the Brookgreen properties and were able to visualize this beauty even in the dead of winter. The following excerpt is from a letter dated January 29, 1930, written by Mrs. Huntington to one of her friends, in which she describes their arrival in Georgetown, the trip to Brookgreen and her first impressions of the Brookgreen properties.

"I must tell you about our one day at Brookgreen while it is fresh in my mind, else all that we have seen since will dim it. Most of the inhabitants seemed to have the leisure to watch the process

of our landing when we docked at Georgetown—a small, sleepy town... Our captain took pains to be as slow and impressive as possible for coming in and out of harbor is like footlights to the actor. I feel like taking part in a comic play when we step across the gangway with the steward and officers all at attention—it seemed as tho' one of them must burst into a tenor solo before the curtain dropped.

We unfortunately lost the ferry and had to drive over terrible roads to Conway and then back to Brookgreen—twenty more, finally reaching there at 1 P.M., having eaten some sandwiches while bouncing about in the car. The old garden looked even more attractive and a low bush of japonica was in bloom and very lovely. I felt a strong impulse to sit on the porch and not go back to the boat.

The house on the beach is quite different. Built almost on the sand with no trees or bushes in sight—also small and primitive—tho' not old and only heated by fireplaces. It's probably only cold at night and we can manage this year and by another have it added to.

There is certainly an enormous amount to be done in draining, fencing, and planting. So much of the land is in a rundown condition. We went over to see the Laurel Hill part that is on a bluff at the bend of a river—most forlorn half hidden by wild growths, the river only seen from the bank, but it was a pretty view even in winter; in the distance one sees the tall chimney of the old rice-mill, the only thing left. The former house is also in ruins but could not have been attractive. I feel quite sure, that the beach house to live in and the woods to ride in are all that we shall want. The white sand-paths that

The old
Laurel Hill
House
"on a bluff
at the bend
of a river,"
as
described
by Anna in
a letter to a
friend.





Front elevation of the Hunt Club Beach House.

run among the trees shining like patches of snow among the patches of yellow and green moss add to the lure.

Even the swamp land is lovely with its uncanny trunk—bulbous—like poison mushroom growths, and lots of holly.”

During March of 1930, the Huntingtons began setting up housekeeping in the gun club beach house to be nearby while the gardens were being developed at Brookgreen. In addition to the local labor they hired, the Huntingtons had brought with them several house servants under the guidance of the head housekeeper called Annie. Although they were quite isolated, the Huntingtons were quite active during these early visits. They made daily inspections of the progress at Brookgreen Gardens and later the building at Atalaya. They had several nearby neighbors, the Norrises and Emersons, whom they visited often. As we learned earlier, they often did venture out overland to Charleston and Georgetown. Another road trip they made in March of 1930 was to Myrtle Beach to see the recently completed Ocean Forest Hotel. Mrs. Huntington wrote “that the new hotel cannot be prosperous,” however it did prosper and for years was the standard to which other resorts of the Grand Strand compared themselves.

Another favorite activity of the Huntingtons was horseback riding. Mrs. Huntington wrote “the men have found us a couple of ponies that we can at least amble along the beach on...” Later she lamented that “We have hardly ridden any for one pony is too small to carry Archer and he must look for another; the little fellow grunted and protested at his weight. So we only walked them thru the woods where there are lovely paths.”

In April of 1930 as the Huntingtons prepared to return North, she reflected on their winter home. It had been a good place to pursue her art, and she began several works of sculpture. It was, however, the serenity of the place, the beauty of unspoiled nature and the grandeur of the ocean to which she was most firmly attached.

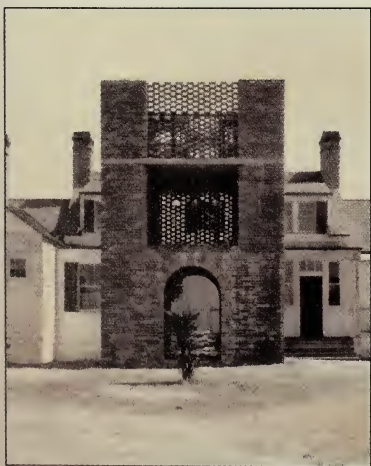
“Spring foliage is starting—especially the live oaks, their young leaves almost yellow, and there was a great variety of wild flowers along the road—probably there would be an infinite variety and the birds are so numerous—I hear their sweet notes outside of my window early mornings, their piping ever above the roar of the ocean.”

THE CONSTRUCTION OF ATALAYA

The Huntingtons enjoyed living among the dunes, but their beach house had been constructed for summer occupancy only, and proved to be quite chilly at times during their winter visits. It appears from the beginning that the Huntingtons had planned to build a home of their own design to replace the beach house. Mrs. Huntington penned the following entry in her diary on April 15, 1930: “Archer has also decided to build something, decided that the sea-wall is an excellent start and what he has in mind would probably be a hair raiser to an architect.”

What Mr. Huntington had in mind was present day Atalaya. The home's name has traditionally been translated from Spanish to mean “watch tower,” and from the Huntington Family Papers we learn that the name was first applied to the home in December 1935. Built to resemble the Moorish architecture of the Spanish Mediterranean coast, the 200 foot-by-200 foot, single story masonry building is often mistaken by visitors to be an old fort or prison.

Mr. Huntington was a well-known Hispanic scholar and drew upon his intimate knowledge of Spain's architectural history and his own vivid imagination for Atalaya's design. It is truly a product of Mr. Huntington's mind, for there are no known architectural drawings or blueprints



The tower, in the courtyard of Atalaya, under construction before the removal of the beach house.



Construction of the concrete roadbed across the causeway which connects Brookgreen Gardens and the beach house.
(Detail)

of the house. It appears that Mr. William Thomson, the contractor, and his workers, built according to Mr. Huntington's oral instructions.

With the completion of the new concrete roadway connecting Brookgreen Gardens with the beach, work commenced on the new house in January 1931. The Depression was beginning to have a severe effect on the local economy. In an effort to relieve some of the financial stress the local area was under, Mr. Huntington hired many skilled and unskilled laborers from the community to work at Brookgreen Gardens and the new house site. Supplies of building material for construction at the beach site were shipped up the Waccamaw River from Georgetown and off-loaded at Brookgreen Landing.

The first thing Mr. Huntington had his contractor, William Thomson, do was to lay a U-shaped concrete pad roughly five inches thick around the beach house. Working only from a plan in his mind, Mr. Huntington then ordered the brick masons to begin raising the walls and left directions for locating openings for windows and doors. To assist with the structural problems which were beginning to appear, Mr. Huntington had a Mr. Christie from his Newport News Shipyard visit the site. Mr. Christie later returned to the shipyard to work out the roof plans and order the iron beams to support it.

During January and February, the mason laid up the walls incorporating the existing seawall in the house as the concrete slabs were completed. In early March the workmen plastered the exterior walls with a cement coating. Mrs. Huntington commented in her diary how difficult it was "to get the cement workers to understand rough surface needed for plastering cement over brick for outside coating." By the middle of the month, the painters had arrived and begun work,

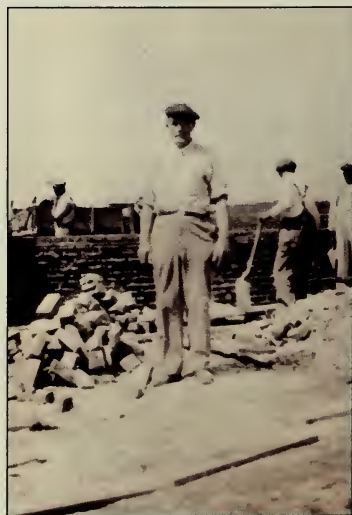


Mr. Huntington (in the dark suit) discusses with William Thomson, the contractor, construction at Atalaya. Mr. Thomson was to have said of Atalaya's construction, "Mr. Huntington, if you tell me much more, I'll find out what you are building."

and at this time Mr. Huntington also ordered the foundation for the tower laid. As the Huntingtons were preparing to leave in May to return home, the workers had begun laying bricks for the tower, laid out the walkways for the courtyard and erected poles for the electrical service from Brookgreen Gardens to the beach house.

Before closing in the outer courtyard on the western side, the gun club beach house was divided into three sections and moved during June and July. One section was moved to the entrance and converted to a residence. The other two were attached to the north wall and utilized as servants' quarters until they were removed in the 1950s.

Preparations for the return trip to Brookgreen Gardens were begun in the fall of the following year. Mrs. Huntington wrote that they had received word that the roof still had several leaks, but that the water system was



William Thomson, the contractor at Atalaya.

functioning and the power would be established by the following month. They sent a van load of furnishing and clothing, arriving there themselves in early December. They were quite distressed on their arrival to learn that the instructions left concerning the construction of the house had not been followed to the letter. Mrs. Huntington wrote in her diary on December 6: "Went over the north half of house and found many things to be done and several alterations where instructions were not carried out correctly," but she also added, "the house will be very livable when all we have in mind is carried out..."

The next six months were to be very busy. Mrs. Huntington's diary entry on New Year's Day 1932 set the tone when she stated that "men all working New

Year's Day—no holiday here." As the construction phase of the courtyard was completed, Frank Green Tarbox, Jr., a Clemson graduate in agronomy hired by the Huntingtons as Brookgreen Gardens' horticulturist, began landscaping it with palms, palmetto and grass. In March, Tito and Roger, a Miami-based foundry, delivered the wrought iron window grilles and instillation began. As early spring approached, the masons were finishing the open brick work on the roof and tower. The walkway was covered and flowers planted in the concrete planter boxes.

By May 5, 1932, Mrs. Huntington recorded in her diary that "all outside workers stop today..." The following month the Huntingtons left, not returning until March of 1934.



During the Great Depression, a time of high unemployment, the construction of Atalaya provided jobs for local laborers.

THE HUNTINGTONS' LATER YEARS

With the completion of the major construction of Atalaya in 1932, Mrs. Huntington had more time to devote to her own work, while being able to work with her husband more on the development of the Brookgreen Gardens and the acquisition of additional sculpture to be placed there. By the mid-1930s, Mrs. Huntington was almost fully recovered from her bout with tuberculosis. During a short winter stay at Atalaya in 1936 she was quite busy with a swan study and with other modeling. In the spring of that year she had a Mr. Moynihan and his sons cast twenty-one new pieces for her which were part of a large exhibit sponsored by the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Mrs. Huntington's first traveling exhibit was organized and began touring in 1937. It contained pieces representative of her forty years as a sculptor. There were among the pieces, some new, unusual sculptural studies of wild birds from Brookgreen and Atalaya. Also included in the show were pieces from her 1936 exhibit.

World War II brought a temporary end to the visits when members of the United States Army Air Corps from the Myrtle Beach Air Field occupied Atalaya. These military personnel were responsible for patrolling the beaches and operating the targets for the 455th Bombardment Squadron stationed at the air field. The grounds were fortified with machine guns, and the building housed a radar unit and its personnel. The attached house from Laurel Hill, moved in the 1930s, served as a mess hall. During target practice runs, there were several plane crashes on the Brookgreen property, one occurring southwest of Atalaya near the beach.

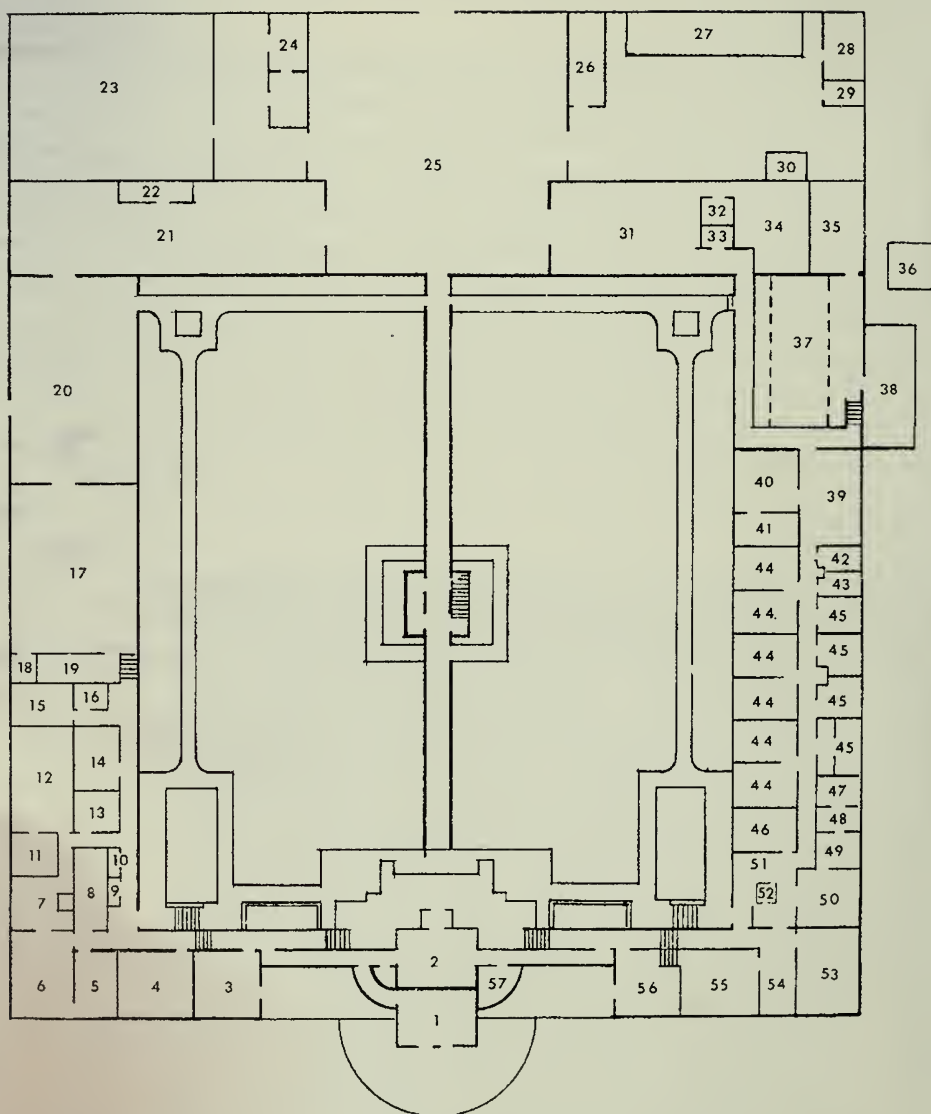


An excursion to nearby Sandy Island, 1935. Both the Huntingtons loved the wild, natural beauty of Brookgreen and the South Carolina Coast, and saw it as an inspiring setting for Anna's art as well as daily life.

Following the end of World War II, the Huntingtons came to Atalaya in 1946 and 1947, but these were their last trips. The infirmities of old age were beginning to affect them both. Mr. Huntington died at "Stanerigg," their home near Bethel, Connecticut, on December 11, 1955. Knowing she would probably never visit Atalaya again, Mrs. Huntington had its furnishings shipped to her home in Connecticut or incorporated into the office at Brookgreen Gardens. Mrs. Huntington was quite active with her work after her husband's death and continued to receive international recognition. Her last major work was one of General Israel Putnam, which was completed when she was ninety-one. When she died on October 4, 1973, she left a legacy in stone and metal that would survive for generations to come.



INTERIOR OF ATALAYA



The map above depicts the layout of the interior of Atalaya as it appeared when the Huntingtons lived there. If you walked through the house today, you would see that there have been some minor interior alterations when you compare the layout to the rooms today. The most noticeable are in the southeastern corner in Room 4, where it has been partitioned, and in Rooms 7, 11 and 12, where door openings and passages have been changed. These changes were made during the 1950s, to accommodate a caretaker and his family.

There are several rooms and sheds throughout the interior which are utilized by the park staff and unfortunately are off limits to the public.

KEY – INTERIOR OF ATALAYA

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Sun Room | 42. Servants' Bath |
| 2. Foyer | (Male and Female) |
| 3. Library | 43. Servants' Bath |
| 4. Secretary's Room and Bath | (Male and Female) |
| (Miss Perkins) | 44. Servants' Quarters |
| 5. Mrs. Huntington's Bath | 45. Storage |
| 6. Master Bedroom | 46. Cook's Quarters |
| 7. Mr. Huntington's Bath | 47. Walk-in Ice Box |
| 8. Clothes Storage | 48. Pantry |
| 9. Clothes Storage | 49. Pantry and Equipment Storage |
| 10. Clothes Storage | 50. Kitchen |
| 11. Valuables Storage | 51. Food Preparation Room |
| 12. Mr. Huntington's Study | 52. Wooden Chopping Block Table |
| 13. Clothes Storage | 53. Servants' Living Room |
| 14. Linen Storage | 54. Food Service Room |
| 15. Secretary's Office | 55. Dining Room |
| 16. Office Supplies Storage | 56. Breakfast Room |
| 17. Indoor Studio | 57. Restroom |
| 18. Studio Restroom | |
| 19. Studio Storage | |
| 20. Outdoor Studio | |
| 21. Stables | |
| 22. Tack Room | |
| 23. Dog Kennels | |
| 24. Bear Pens | |
| 25. Paved Courtyard | |
| 26. Oyster Shucking Room | |
| 27. Wood Shed | |
| 28. Wood Shed | |
| 29. Incinerator | |
| 30. Fuel Tank | |
| (later than 1930's) | |
| 31. Garage | |
| 32. Restroom | |
| 33. Storage | |
| 34. Generator Room | |
| 35. Wood Storage | |
| 36. Cistern | |
| 37. Laundry Drying Yard | |
| 38. Laundryman's Quarters | |
| 39. Laundry Room | |
| 40. Housekeeper's Room | |
| (Miss McKinnon) | |
| 41. Housekeeper's Bath | |



The handmade iron window grills at Atalaya are some of its most pleasing architectural features.



An immature herring gull searches
the beach.

NATURAL AREAS

In a June 7, 1931 interview with a reporter for the *Charleston News and Courier*, Archer Milton Huntington said that he did not purchase Brookgreen as a hunting preserve, but preferred “to study wildlife under natural conditions”. Today, Brookgreen Gardens and the South Carolina State Park Service still carry out this tradition through their land stewardship programs and interpretive services.

Huntington Beach State Park in Georgetown County contains 2500 acres of maritime habitats that support a diverse assemblage of plants and animals. Fine examples of representative coastal plant communities, as well as some unusual types occur in close proximity to create a landscape of diversity unsurpassed by any other coastal South Carolina State Park. The most exceptional biotic feature here is its bird life. Today, many consider Huntington Beach State Park as the best single birding destination in South Carolina. Over 280 species of birds have been reported from the park, which represents nearly three-quarters of all South Carolina birds.

Over the years, several important events have altered Huntington Beach State Park's natural landscape. In October of 1954, Hurricane Hazel struck the coast of South Carolina. The ocean waves leveled the beach's protective sand dunes and surged inland, washing out the north causeway bordering Mullet Pond.

In September of 1989 Hurricane Hugo had a similar impact on the park's forests and dune fields. Large areas of mixed pine forests, that consisted mainly of loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) with a developing hardwood understory and scattered live oaks (*Quercus virginiana*), were destroyed by the storm and resulting saltwater conditions. This had a significant effect on the plant composition as well as songbird habitat. The sand dunes leveled by this hurricane have since recovered, in part as a result of a statewide beach recovery program in 1990.



Great egrets are commonly seen from the north causeway.

The Salt Marsh

A large portion of Huntington Beach State Park consists of salt marsh habitat, most of which has been registered under the South Carolina Heritage Trust program because of its outstanding natural quality. This extensive marshland community, along with Oaks Creek and Drunken Jack Island, is a highly productive habitat, supporting a rich abundance of animal life. Typical plants found here are two species of saltmarsh cordgrass (*Spartina patens* and *Spartina alternifolia*), glasswort (*Salicornia virginica*) and saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*). Animal species include wood stork, clapper rail, sharp-tailed sparrow, diamondback terrapin and raccoon. Other inhabitants of the salt marsh are marsh periwinkle, blue crabs, fiddler crabs, snapping shrimp, mud minnows and striped mullet, to name a few.

The clapper rail is a seldom-seen but common resident of the salt marsh.



Freshwater Wetlands

The southern end of the Murrells Inlet salt marsh was impounded about the time the shell road from Brookgreen Gardens to Magnolia Beach was resurfaced with concrete. This action backed up the waters of Old Field and Rose Branches, thus creating freshwater ponds on either side of the south causeway. An artesian well augmented the supply of fresh water and as a result, Mullet Pond and Mallard Pond were formed. The brackish body of water known as Sandpiper Pond was once a tidal inlet, but in recent years became closed off from the ocean.

Today, the freshwater ponds of Huntington Beach are rapidly being closed by natural succession. Cattails and other marsh vegetation, including the highly invasive Phragmites, have become well established and if left unchecked, will eventually close all open water, significantly altering the existing waterfowl habitat. For this reason, Huntington Beach State Park has taken management steps to slow the spread of these plants.

The freshwater wetlands of the park are important for a number of overwintering waterfowl including tundra swan, pintail, canvasback, green-winged teal and many other species of ducks. The cattail edges support marsh-loving birds like sora rails as well as least bitterns, common moorhens and marsh wrens. Other animals found here are American alligators, yellow-bellied sliders, banded watersnakes and a variety of fish. The tree and shrub thickets bordering the freshwater wetlands provide roost and nesting habitat for several groups of birds including egrets, herons, red-shouldered hawks and a variety of songbirds. Park visitors occasionally observe osprey and bald eagles hunting over these ponds searching for fish, or in the case of the eagle, an unwary coot.

American alligators are most easily seen in the freshwater pond along the north causeway entering the park. The alligator population



Male red-breasted mergansers.

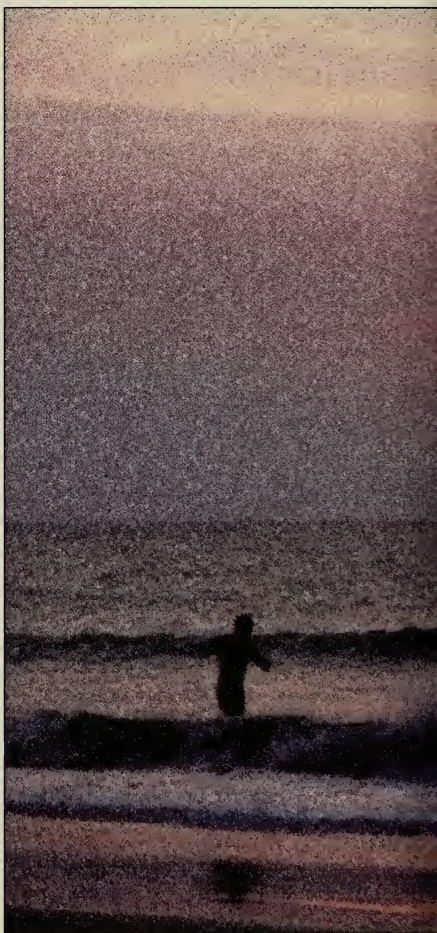


The tricolored heron, left, is one of many species of wading birds found in the park.



American alligator, lower left.

has steadily increased at Huntington Beach since the 1970s and today “alligator watching” is a very popular activity. Educational signs are present at various locations, providing life history information as well as special safety precautions to visitors. To observe this large reptile in the wild is always a memorable experience, however, always be mindful of their strength and quickness. Never feed, harass or approach these wild creatures, and always remember to keep your pets on a leash.



Beach and Dune Fields

Nature enthusiasts have ample opportunity to explore the life that occurs on the beach and dune fields by walking along the north beach to the jetty. Here, beachcombers may encounter a variety of shell mollusks and other ocean creatures, including the lettered olive, South Carolina's state shell, and sea stars. The tidal mud flats and pools on the north beach are utilized by a variety of foraging shorebirds such as dunlins, short-billed dowitchers and western sandpipers. Shorebirds feeding at the surf's edge include willets and sanderlings. The jetty is a man-made structure built to protect the navigation channel into Murrells Inlet. It also provides habitat for a





The least tern (above left) is our smallest North American tern. The dune fields at Huntington (above) are very important and fragile ecosystems.

number of animals that ordinarily occur along the rocky shores of the northern United States and Canada. Unusual birds have been found near the wave-battered rocks in winter including common eiders, harlequin ducks, black guillemots, razorbills and others. The jetty is also a popular location for fishermen trying their luck with channel bass, sheepshead or even flounder.

The dune fields are a highly transitional habitat with sea oats (*Uniola paniculata*) being the dominant vegetation. A number of other plants occur here in lesser abundance including the rare sea beach amaranth (*Amaranthus pumilis*). This federally threatened species occurs in isolated populations and two-thirds of its former range has been lost to habitat disturbance worldwide. The sea beach amaranth is found in relatively bare sites that experience occasional disturbance such as tidal inundation and wind-driven sand deposition. Some populations of this succulent plant have been marked off for their protection so please watch your step!

Always keep in mind that the dunes at Huntington Beach are a very important and fragile ecosystem. The vegetation that occurs here helps stabilize the dune fields, thus resisting wind, as well as wave erosion. For this reason, visitors are required to stay on designated paths and not to trample over the dunes.

The dune field and its associated habitats provide nesting areas for a variety of sea and shorebirds including willets, black skimmers, Wilson's plovers, and on occasion, least terns. The least tern is the smallest of South Carolina's terns, measuring eight to ten inches in length. It is a fairly common, but local, summer resident along the coast from March to October. This species has declined in the state since about 1965. Under natural conditions, this species nests in colonies on sandy beaches with a fair amount of crushed shell material. These sites camouflage the speckled, buff-colored eggs, which are laid in a shallow scrape in the sand. A number of birds in recent years have abandoned their natural habitat and begun nesting on flat, gravel-topped roofs. Management efforts have been implemented to re-establish natural breeding conditions at the park.

The loggerhead turtle is the only sea turtle that regularly nests on South Carolina beaches. Although nesting attempts at the park are sporadic, with 20 or less occurring most years, breeding populations increase further south. Adult loggerheads arrive in waters just offshore to mate in April and will remain until October. From mid-May through August, females come ashore to lay their eggs, usually near the base of the primary dune line. On average, 120 eggs are deposited. Potential predators to the nest and young include raccoons, foxes and ghost crabs. Artificial lights and other types of human disturbance also disorient nesting females and young, leading to further mortality. The sea turtle management program on Huntington Beach State Park consists of monitoring and nest protection, which is primarily done by park personnel with coordinated volunteers.

The maritime shrub thickets occur as a narrow band from the secondary dune system down to the edge of the salt marsh. This habitat consists of thickly entangled vines and low-growing shrubs including wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*), yaupon (*Ilex vomitoria*), groundsel tree (*Baccharis balimifolia*) and red cedar. The thickets create important food, shelter and nesting sites for a variety of birds including the common ground-dove, painted bunting and yellow-rumped warbler.

Young naturalists learning about marine ecology.



The Forest

The forest of Huntington Beach was once described as a sub-climax maritime forest, which is characteristic of the southeastern coast. Hurricane Hugo in 1989 caused significant damage to the state park forest. Prior to this storm, much of the upland areas of the park east and south of the marshlands were heavily forested in loblolly pine, with mixed stands of live oaks and a developing understory of hardwoods. Practically all of the pines in these areas were killed by saltwater intrusion following the storm. Areas east and south of the north causeway, including day use areas and campgrounds, were replanted with native nursery stock hardwood seedlings as well as some larger-



Whitetail buck.

sized trees. The northern portion of the park was allowed to re-vegetate naturally. Although battered and heavily damaged, many of the live oaks and some red cedar survived the storm's onslaught and eventually recovered.

Interestingly, a survey of the forests east and south of the north causeway revealed that many of these pines had been a little over 30 years old. This dates approximately to the last major hurricane, which was Hazel in 1954. The destroyed forested areas grew back thick with loblolly pine, which re-generated quickly from seed following the storm, various hardwood saplings, including sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), as well as numerous shrubs such as yaupon, wax myrtles and vines. The increased sunlight also enhanced the spread of non-native exotics such as Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) and wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*) in some areas.

The forest west, or inland, of the marshlands fared much better and consists of older stands of pine along with mixed canopy-forming hardwoods, such as live oak and laurel oak. The understory here includes sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), red bay (*Persea borbonia*) and sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana*), which are all typical components of a maritime forest ecosystem. Present in some areas are stands of large loblolly pines, which were formerly used by a nesting pair of bald eagles. A variety of songbirds inhabit the forest including great-crested flycatchers, red-eyed vireos, northern parula warblers, yellow-throated warblers, summer tanagers and orchard orioles. Visitors may also catch a glimpse of marsh rabbits at the forest edge as well as an occasional bobcat and white-tailed deer.

To aid you in your visit, included is an annotated list of representative plant and animal species found on the park. For more complete information, contact the park office and ask for species checklists.

THE SALT MARSH

Plants

Sea-Myrtle, *Baccharis halimifolia*
Saltgrass, *Distichlis spicata*
Rushes, *Juncus species*
Glasswort, *Salicornia virginica*
Saltmarsh Cordgrass, *Spartina alterniflora*
Cordgrass, *Spartina patens*

Animals

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Marsh Periwinkle | Tricolored Heron |
| Eastern Oyster | Glossy Ibis |
| Snapping Shrimp | Wood Stork |
| Blue Crab | Hooded Merganser |
| Mud Crab | Northern Harrier |
| Fiddler Crab | Clapper Rail |
| Mud Minnow | Greater Yellowlegs |
| Striped Mullet | Laughing Gull |
| Atlantic Croaker | Marsh Wren |
| Spot | Sharp-tailed Sparrow |
| Diamondback Terrapin | Seaside Sparrow |
| Great Egret | Boat-tailed Grackle |
| Snowy Egret | Raccoon |

THE FRESHWATER WETLANDS

Plants

Tag Alder, *Alnus serrulata*
Sedges, *Carex species*
Water Ash, *Fraxinus carolinana*
Rose Mallow, *Hibiscus moscheutos*
Marsh Pennywort, *Hydrocotyle species*
Rushes, *Juncus species*
Pickerelweed, *Pontederia cordata*
Black Willow, *Salix nigra*
Narrow-leaved Cat-tail, *Typha angustifolia*

Animals

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Sailfin Molly | American Wigeon |
| Least Killfish | Canvasback |
| Green Treefrog | Redhead |
| Pig Frog | Lesser Scaup |
| American Alligator | Ruddy Duck |
| Eastern Mud Turtle | Osprey |
| Yellow-bellied Slider | Bald Eagle |
| Banded Watersnake | Red-shouldered Hawk |
| Eastern Cottonmouth | Sora |
| Least Bittern | Common Moorhen |

Great Blue Heron
Tundra Swan
Green-winged Teal
Northern Pintail
Northern Shoveler
Gadwall

American Coot
Belted Kingfisher
Common Yellowthroat
Red-winged Blackbird
Muskrat
River Otter

THE BEACH AND DUNEFIELDS

Plants

Sea Beach Amaranth, *Amaranthus pumilus*
Spurge Nettle, *Cnidoscolus stimulosus*
Silver-leaf Croton, *Croton punctatus*
Bermuda Grass, *Cynodon dactylon*
Rough Buttonweed, *Diodia teres*
Camphorweed, *Heterotheca subaxillaris*
Largeleaf Pennywort, *Hydrocotyle bonariensis*
Marsh Elder, *Iva imbricata*
Wax Myrtle, *Myrica cerifera*
Seaside Evening Primrose, *Oenothera humifusa*
Devil's-joint Cactus, *Opuntia species*
Bitter Panicum, *Panicum amarum*
Catbriar, *Smilax auriculata*
Sand Grass, *Triplasis purpurea*
Sea Oats, *Uniola paniculata*

Animals

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Grey Sea Star | Bluefish |
| Sand Dollar | Flounder |
| Cannonball Jellyfish | Spotted Seatrout |
| Sea Whip | Loggerhead Turtle |
| Atlantic Slipper Snail | Brown Pelican |
| Atlantic Moon Snail | Double-crested Cormorant |
| Atlantic Oyster Drill | Bufflehead |
| Knobbed Whelk | Red-breasted Merganser |
| Channeled Whelk | Peregrine Falcon |
| Banded Tulip | Black-bellied Plover |
| Lettered Olive | Semipalmated Plover |
| Atlantic Auger | Piping Plover |
| Scorched Mussel | American Oystercatcher |
| Ponderous Ark | Willet |
| Incongruous Ark | Ruddy Turnstone |
| Sawtooth Pen Clam | Sanderling |
| Common Jingle | Western Sandpiper |
| Giant Atlantic Cockle | Purple Sandpiper |
| Surf Clam | Dunlin |
| Atlantic Razor Clam | Short-billed Dowitcher |
| Alternate Tellin | Bonaparte's Gull |
| Common Sand Clam | Ring-billed Gull |
| Coquina | Herring Gull |

Quahog Clam
Disk Venus
Angel Wing
Horseshoe Crab
Mottled Purse Crab
Spider Crab
Lady Crab
Ghost Crab
Channel Bass
Sheepshead

Royal Tern
Sandwich Tern
Forster's Tern
Least Tern
Black Skimmer
Common Ground-Dove
Short-eared Owl
Savannah Sparrow
Lapland Longspur
Red Fox

THE FOREST

Plants

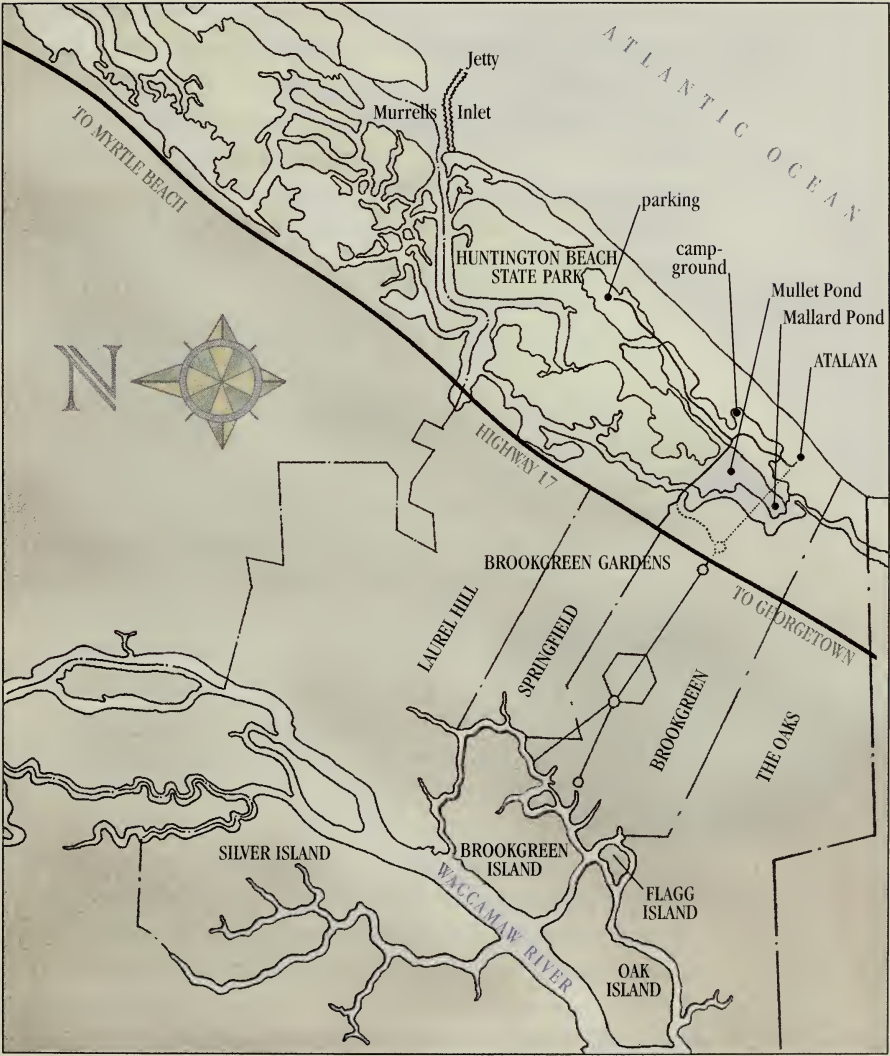
Beauty-Berry, *Callicarpa Americana*
Trumpet Vine, *Campis radicans*
Chinquapin, *Castanea pumila*
Flowering Dogwood, *Cornus florida*
American Holly, *Ilex opaca*
Yaupon Holly, *Ilex vomitoria*
Southern Red Cedar, *Juniperus siliciola*
Sweet-gum, *Liquidambar styraciflua*
Sweet Bay, *Magnolia virginiana*
Cinammon Fern, *Osmunda cinnamomea*
Red Bay, *Persea borbonia*
Loblolly Pine, *Pinus taeda*
Laurel Oak, *Quercus laurifolia*
Water Oak, *Quercus nigra*
Live Oak, *Quercus virginiana*
Dwarf Sumac, *Rhus copallina*
Sassafras, *Sassafras albidum*

Animals

Southern Toad
Eastern Box Turtle
Green Anole
Five-lined Skink
Eastern Kingsnake
Rat Snake
Smooth Earth Snake
Eastern Hognose Snake
Southern Copperhead
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Eastern Screech-Owl
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker
Great-crested Flycatcher
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Carolina Wren

White-eyed Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Northern Parula Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler
Pine Warbler
Summer Tanager
Northern Cardinal
Painted Bunting
Eastern Towhee
Orchard Oriole
Opossum
Short-tailed Shrew
Gray Squirrel
Marsh Rabbit
Bobcat
White-tailed Deer

THE PLANTATION PROPERTIES OF BROOKGREEN



THE PLANTATION PROPERTIES OF BROOKGREEN

Laurel Hill

Laurel Hill, the northernmost of the four plantations that made up the original purchase of the Huntingtons, was part of a 1,300 acre grant to Robert Daniel. Through a series of purchases, it eventually became the property of William Waties, Jr., who registered it in the memorial book of quit rents to the crown on February 15, 1732. The plantation was known prior to 1732 as "Lorrill Hill": its name is thought to have derived from the large numbers of magnolias found on the property which were mistaken for laurels.

The property remained in the Waties family until 1750 when it was sold to Gabriel Marion. Marion kept the plantation until 1775 when it was sold to Plowden Weston, a wealthy Charleston merchant, who acquired adjoining property from William Allston. During the American Revolution, Laurel Hill produced foodstuffs that supplied Peter Horry's troops.

At the death of Plowden Weston in 1827, Laurel Hill was inherited by his eldest son, Francis Marion Weston.

F.M. Weston continued to increase the family landholdings by purchasing the Hagley plantation from one of the Alstons.

Plowden Charles Jennet Weston, F.M.

Weston's son by his first marriage, inherited the whole estate after his father's death in

1854. P.C.J. Weston was tutored by Alexander

Glennie, the rector at All Saints Waccamaw Church, and

later attended Harrow in England. In 1847 he married Emily Frances Esdaile, the sister of a classmate from Harrow. In a move to round out his estate, Weston sold Laurel Hill to Col. Daniel W. Jordan in the late 1850s and purchased adjoining property from Col. T.P. Alston. During the Civil War, Jordan permanently moved to Camden, never to return to Laurel Hill. The plantation was sold at auction after the Civil War. Several generations later the property was acquired by the owners of the Waccamaw Club and Dr. J.A. Mood of Sumter. It was Dr. Mood who first consolidated the four plantations which were eventually to be acquired by the Huntingtons.



The Oaks

The Oaks was one of several plantations owned by Joseph Allston and his wife, Charlotte Rothmahler Allston, in the 1750s. Josiah Quincy of Massachusetts described his visit with the Allstons in 1773 as follows:

“Spent this night with Mr. Joseph Allston, a gentleman of immense income all of his own acquisition. He is a person between thirty-nine and forty, and a very few years ago begun the world with only five negroes—has now five plantations with a hundred slaves on each. He told me his neat income was but about five or six thousand pounds sterling a year, he is reputed much richer. His plantation, negroes, gardens, etc., are in the best order of any I have seen! He has propagated the Lisbon and Wine-Island grapes with great success. I was entertained with more true hospitality and benevolence by his family than any I had met with. His good lady filled a wallet, with bread, biscuit, wine, fowl, and tongue, and presented it next morning. The wine I declined, but gladly received the rest. At about twelve o'clock in a sandy pine desert I enjoyed a fine regalement, and having met with a refreshing spring. I remembered the worthy Mr. Allston and Lady with more warmth of affection and hearty benizons, than ever I toasted King or Queen, or Saint or Hero.”

Joseph Allston was a militant patriot contributing his money and political skills to the American cause. At his death in 1784, he left The Oaks to his grandson, Joseph, son of William Alston, making the young five year old Joseph a very rich boy. William Alston dropped the “l” in the family name about the time of George Washington’s visit.

On a visit to the North as a young adult, in the late 1790s, Joseph Alston met Theodosia Burr, daughter Aaron Burr. With the blessing of her father, Theodosia married Joseph in February 1801, after which they moved to South Carolina.

In 1802 they celebrated the birth of their son, Aaron Burr Alston. Theodosia was having problems adjusting to the climate and her rural surroundings. This was compounded by her father’s exile to Europe and later the death of her only child in 1812. In December 1812, Theodosia sailed for New York on the *Patriot* to meet her father for the first time in several years. The ship carrying Mrs. Alston

never reached New York and is believed to have sunk off Cape Hatteras in North Carolina. Many legends have evolved concerning the death of Theodosia Alston. Joseph never seemed to have recovered from the loss of his son and his wife and died in 1816 at the age of thirty-seven. He was buried in the family cemetery at The Oaks.

With the death of Joseph, The Oaks passed to his nephew and namesake, and later to other family members.

SPRINGFIELD AND BROOKGREEN

Between Laurel Hill and The Oaks were the plantations of Springfield and Brookgreen. Although they are often referred to separately, they have been under common ownership for most of their existence. The lands that make up these two plantations were part of the land grants received from George II by William and Joseph Allston in 1734 and 1735.

John Allston died in 1750 leaving Brookgreen to his son, William, who became known as William of Brookgreen to distinguish him from his kinsman of the same name. William was an ardent patriot who supported the Revolution with his wealth, services and ultimately his life. After Captain Allston's death the second Mrs. Allston married Dr. Henry Collins Flagg of Rhode Island, who had come South to be a surgeon for General Nathaniel Greene. It was Dr. Flagg who welcomed President Washington to Brookgreen during his Southern tour of 1791.

Washington Allston, the son of William Allston by his second wife, Rachel Moore, inherited Springfield at his father's death. Born on November 5, 1779, young Washington was sent North to live because the climate of Carolina did not suit his constitution. He began studying painting and sold Springfield to his brother Benjamin Allston, in order to finance his studies. Washington Allston became best known for his paintings. However, his abilities crossed over into writing and sculpture. He became famous for his artistic creations on both sides of the Atlantic.

Brookgreen, at William Allston's death, went to Benjamin, his son by his first wife, Anne Simons Allston. Benjamin appears to have posted a surety bond for a friend or family member who defaulted. Robert and Francis Withers came to the aid of Benjamin and purchased the plantation.

Sometime in 1800 Joshua Ward, the son of a Charleston lawyer and merchant family, acquired Brookgreen from the Withers

brothers. It was Ward's son, Col. Joshua John Ward, who was to become the wealthiest and most well known of the Ward family. Educated in Scotland, Col. Ward owned six plantations in the Waccamaw region at his death. In 1847 J.J. Ward purchased the Springfield property from Mary Wilkinson Memminger, who had inherited it from her uncles, the Withers brothers.

At his death in 1853, J.J. Ward left his wife, Joanna Douglas Hasell Ward, the home at Brookgreen, furnishings and the summer residence at Magnolia (Huntington Beach State Park). To his eldest son, Joshua, he left Brookgreen and Springfield. At Joshua's death in 1869, the plantations were held for his son, Samuel Mortimer Ward, who was a minor.



In 1869 the property was leased to Dr. Lewis Cruger Hasell who, because of hard times, was able to purchase the property in 1870 for the price of \$10,000. Hasell's brother-in-law, Marinus Willett of New York, purchased Springfield and made an attempt to grow rice again. It was during the Hasell ownership that the Allston family house burned in 1901.

After the death of Hasell and his wife, the property passed to Mrs. Hasell's sister-in-law, Edith Willet. The heirs sold the property to Dr. Mood for the Waccamaw Club in 1920.

Also living on the Brookgreen estate at this time was Dr. Joshua John Ward Flagg. Flagg, his servant, and niece were among the only survivors at Magnolia Beach of the Hurricane of 1893 that devastated the coast and drowned several members of the family at Magnolia Beach.



HOT AND HOT FISH CLUB

Drunken Jack Island lies in the midst of the salt marsh at the north end of the park. It has a very colorful history with stories of pirates and buried treasure. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, it was the site of the Hot and Hot Fish Club. The club was organized by prominent planters of the Waccamaw region as a social and political club. Governor R.F.W. Allston, a direct descendant of the Allstons of the Brookgreen and Springfield plantations, wrote the following description of the club meetings:

“There was but one salt dish (beef or ham) and one of fresh meat (generally game) on table, and these were furnished, together with rice, in turns. For the rest, every member caught his own dinner and enough for his boat hands, each contributing some kind of bread, and such condiments as he liked. The club-house was situated within fifty feet of the inlet waters, on the northern extremity of “Drunken Jack,” a small island on Murrells Inlet partially covered with stunted trees and within sight of all the fishing grounds. At one o’clock the President repaired to his post, and raised a flag to call in the boats; the fish taken by each boat was surveyed, and each variety in turn was duly discussed. Sometimes the admiring crowd was enlightened by a narration of the capture. Cavally, frequently, and the finest whiting and sailors’ choice (the “hog-fish” of North Carolina and Virginia) were among the material of the dinner. Certain hands from each boat being detailed to clean these fish (the rule was, after scaling, to wash the fish in three waters, the last to be fresh), the boats dropped off into the stream, within two or three hundred yards and recommenced fishing, coming in one by one to fetch whatever was choice, during dinner. Thus, not frequently, the best of the fish came last, and there were not wanting several at table whose experienced palates taught them to reserve a vacant place for the fish coming in second course, “hot and hot.”

The Club was damaged by one of the several storms that struck the beaches during this period and moved to the site of Ward’s salt vats. This site is also located on the park on the mainland side north of the entrance road near the causeway. It was relocated several more times in an effort to better serve its members with a more central location.

THE HURRICANE OF 1893

One of the most tragic stories associated with Magnolia Beach concerns the hurricane that struck the coast on October 13, 1893. What started out as a normal fall vacation for members of the Flagg family and their house servants ended in death and destruction. Of all the houses on Magnolia at the time, the Hasell house was the only one left standing and only a few lived to tell the story. One of those was Dr. Ward Flagg who lost his father and mother as well as his brother and family. Dr. Flagg related the following description of the drama in a 1932 interview with Mrs. Zaidee Poe Brawley.

"It has been thirty-nine years ago—and now I am an old man. I have not much longer in this house where I have lived so many years. This was the Miller's house. My father planted rice here at Brookgreen and on his other plantation. He had houses like this for his miller and his overseer. When it first happened, I couldn't put it out of my mind. It was always with me. I do not believe that when people die they are like dogs and other animals, who simply die and end. But I do not believe in a hell where they suffer afterwards. It is in a man's mind that he suffers punishment while he is living. It happened on the 13th—a bad luck day the 13th—a Friday too, the 13th of October 1893, when the great storm came up and made the new inlet and filled up the old inlet. Our house was on Magnolia. About 3 ½ miles from this house and about 1 ¾ miles above the house Mr. Huntington has built on the beach, ¾ miles below South of our house was my brother's house where he lived with his pretty young wife, Mattie La Bruce, his six children and Mattie's two sisters who had come from New York to visit her.

October was always our best month on Magnolia – no flies, no mosquitoes and we did not expect any storm. It was ten o'clock in the morning when the terrible storm blew out of the east and all at once it got blacker and blacker so that it was just like the middle of the night. The big waves began to come way up the beach, rushing toward the house and we stood, my father and my brother and I, to watch the storm. My father said, "I am afraid we may lose the house." I got two axes and we began tearing away the floors in the piazza and my brother in the house so that the rooms downstairs could fill with water and keep the house down. But the roof of the porch caved and I said – Run – everybody – run and swim all to the tree. The house was a house very much like your house at Pauley's Island, Mrs. Brawley, and the tree was an old, gnarled, husky cedar, very strong and spreading. There were fifteen Negroes with us. My man who takes care of me now was one of

them. He was the son of the children's nurse. I was thirty-three then – my father was 65 but my mother was 60 and she was in her prime. We got to the tree and we all crowded under the spreading branches and held on tight as we could but the water kept sweeping over us and then we would be beaten under again. My father and mother kept rising and whenever I saw them losing hold, I caught them and pulled them back. My little niece was with me and I took a piece of the flooring I had split off and braced her with the nurse's son in a crotch of the cedar tree and I told the Negroes none of them must let go.

They held on like leeches – lashing their strong legs and arms over and around the cedar. Seven of them drowned but they didn't let go the tree. My mother always said she didn't want to be sick and die – she didn't want to be any trouble and care to anybody. She always said I wish I could die right with your father and he would put his arms around me and we would go together and not be any trouble to anybody. He put his arms around her waist and held her up close to him and she put her arms around him right under his arm pits and she would try to push him up when the water came and he would get down on the tree and try to push her up. The last time I saw them come up, they were just like she always said. She wasn't sick and my father had her close in his arms. Maybe they could have gotten out of it if it had not been for a wire fence my father had put around the house. The water came just like a wall around us and the fence wrapped around anybody who tried to swim through it. When my father and mother didn't come up anymore, I felt I was going off too but I didn't worry about my brother. He was such a strong swimmer.

All at once, just like it had come on us, the wall of water began to go down again and in a little while the trees was not under water and my niece, and my man here and five negroes were clinging like leeches.

When I could get down, I wanted to get help so I went up the strand to find my brother and Mattie so they could help me look for my father and mother. Their house was gone and they were all gone. But after a while, I saw Mattie. She looked like she was lying on a mattress and her arms were stretched out like she was floating in water. I went to her and she was drowned. She had wrapped up just like she was in a shroud of barbed wire fencing. The waves had rolled her up in it and her arms were sticking out straight on each side through the wire. She was beautiful and I didn't want her to wash off in the tide so I found a cold chisel in an old brick tool house and I worked two hours and I got her out.

...It all happened on the 13th of October, thirty-nine years ago. It was Friday and Friday the thirteenth is a bad luck day."

The Annual Arts and Crafts Festival at Atalaya

The legacy left by Archer and Anna Huntington was one both of fine art and nature conservation. Following her death in 1973, supporters of Anna Huntington decided to honor her memory by holding an arts festival in Atalaya at Huntington Beach State Park.



Begun in 1976, the Atalaya Arts and Crafts Festival has evolved over the last quarter-century from a small event, attended only by local residents, to a three-day long extravaganza featuring more than 100 artisans and drawing visitors from all across the United States and several foreign countries. The quality of the art, all created in the United States and featured at the Atalaya Festival, has improved each year. Because of this dedication to original and unique art, Atalaya



has continued to grow and improve, providing yet another popular attraction for the Grand Strand area.

The Huntingtons created the very setting at Atalaya with the artist in mind. A pristine beach is less than 100 yards from the structure, and palmetto trees and lush grass line its courtyard. Combined with nearby Brookgreen Gardens, the Atalaya Festival offers a complete

backdrop for many kinds of artistic expression.

The number of people who want to participate in it can measure the prestige and power of any event, and in that sense Atalaya is no exception. The Festival's reputation, and that of the creative individuals who have exhibited here, is based solely on the guiding principle of offering quality, non-commercial works for the enjoyment of participants and visitors alike. Atalaya consistently receives applications from more than 200 artisans each year. A panel of six experts in the art administration field reviews each applicant's work once the application process is completed. Atalaya consistently features artists who work in media ranging from oils to acrylics to metal, photography to clay, and porcelain to stone and woodwork.

Vying for one of only approximately 115 participant slots at the Festival, competition among the artists is keen. Each potential exhibitor is required to submit several examples of their work for the



jury to review. This shows the jury the level of quality among the artist's body of work. Each juror assigns a score to each artist's work that is later tabulated. Only those artists with the highest scoring works are invited to participate in the Atalaya Festival.

The mass appeal of the Atalaya Arts and Crafts Festival lies in the fact there is something for everyone. Food vendors provide different kinds of cuisine for Festival visitors and exhibitors, featuring everything from fresh seafood to the more standard fare of hot dogs and hamburgers. The sounds of music also can be heard throughout the Atalaya grounds. Local musicians regale their audience with the harmonies derived from the different genres of bluegrass, blues, jazz, classical, and popular music.

If that wasn't enough, the Atalaya Festival also benefits from its location at Huntington Beach State Park, which also has much to offer the visitor. Boasting one of the few remaining undeveloped stretches of beachfront on the Grand Strand, Huntington Beach provides its guests some of the best opportunities on the East Coast to view wildlife in natural, undisturbed habitats.



**Atalaya was
the winter
home and art
studio of
famed
American
sculptor
Anna Hyatt
Huntington.**

**Today, the
Moorish-
Spanish
architecture
and beautiful
courtyard are
signature
attractions at
Huntington
Beach State
Park.**

